



Western Springs College

Alumni & Friends

Issue 2 | October 2012

Feature in our next communication. Email your story to alumni@wsc.co.nz

Calling all Alumni! Join the Alumni at <http://westernsprings.school.nz/Alumni/>

Turning Everyday Actions into Awe-Inspiring Works of Art

Joseph Herscher is a kinetic artist who specializes in making Rube Goldberg machines - complicated chain reactions that are laboriously contrived to perform a simple task. His most recent video [The Page Turner](#) has received 7 million views and was featured in the New York Times and on numerous television shows around the world. He has exhibited and run workshops in Italy, Germany, Canada, the US and New Zealand. You can see more of his work on his website: josephherscher.com. Joseph is currently living in New York.



Greatest achievement: Personally, my greatest achievement was my first machine [Creme That Egg](#). It took 7 months to build and 3 days of filming on my own to get one perfect take.

Source of inspiration: I am most inspired by the world around me. For example, when I knocked a bottle of ketchup off the shelf in the supermarket I noticed the way it rolled was very elegant. So I sat and played with all the bottles until I found "the best roll". As a designer I believe *play* is the key to coming up with new ideas and unlocking creativity.

Greatest influence: My greatest influence is definitely my parents. They are professional musicians, and have taught me the importance of dedication to your idea and the value of making other people smile.

Working style: My work is 1% design time and 99% trial and error. Trial (and failure) is how I learn the limits of my materials. Slowly, over time my brain has gotten better at mentally simulating physical reactions, so I can tell if something will work before I even try it. I believe this is true for many disciplines, whether it be fashion designers who can simulate how a garment will sit on the human body before they see it, or graphic designers who can tell if a layout will look balanced before they draw it.

Our mission is to re-connect with all students, teachers and friends of Western Springs College. We want to keep you up to date with what is happening at Western Springs College and build an Alumni community.

Forward this email onto friends and ex-students or send their details to alumni@wsc.school.nz. Join the Alumni at <http://westernsprings.school.nz/Alumni/>

Have your details changed? Email changes to alumni@wsc.co.nz

Calendar of Events

TAPAC Events
<http://tapac.org.nz/>

Wendy Moore – Vocal Workshop Oct 20

Culture Clash – Oct 26 – 3 Nov

With a cast from Russia, India, the Czech Republic, Albania, Brazil, Canada, France, Samoa, New Zealand and China, Culture Clash is an incredibly diverse and culturally rich project where 25 talented performers from across Auckland have come together to create a truly unique, live ensemble

Special to me: My most special possession is an antique four-piece toaster given to me by Rube Goldberg's granddaughter. When you flick a switch all the toast rotates out from the center on little arms and flips over. It looks like a woman flicking a pleated dress around her legs.

Joseph attended Western Spring College 1998 to 2002.



Daisy Cleverley – A Young Football Fern

Western Springs College year 10 student, Daisy Cleverley, has been selected to represent New Zealand in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Azerbaijan in September. Daisy is one of a 21 strong squad, coached by Paul Temple.

The squad hails from Auckland, Hamilton, Christchurch, Wellington and Nelson, which is a sign of the increasing strength and depth of women's football in New Zealand. Achieving a spot in this squad is tougher than ever before, and takes a huge amount of talent and commitment. Daisy has no problems training four afternoons a week for 1 1/2 to 2 hours, playing on Sunday and going to the gym on her days off, as she loves it.



Daisy has had a short but impressive career in football. She started at the age of six; spent a number of years helping the boys to win the 10th, 11th and 12th grade Auckland Championship for Western Springs, and represented the Auckland Girls Under 13 team three times from age ten. Daisy currently plays for the premier women's team for Lynn-Avon A.F.C.

Football runs in the family. Daisy, her father and grandfather all represented Auckland in the prestigious Weir Rose Bowl Tournament, contested by the upper North Island. Her father is one of her biggest supporters and has coached Daisy right from the day she started. Daisy says, "I am so grateful to my dad because he shares my passion for football, he's always up for a kick with the ball - even in the rain!"

The U-17 NZ Women's team kicked off with two international games in Switzerland enroute to Azerbaijan on September 23rd. They then faced three challenging games against Mexico, Japan and finally Brazil. Although, the kiwis suffered three losses, they put up an impressive fight against Brazil who finally edged the kiwis out with a 4-3 result, putting an end to our World Cup campaign. Daisy had an excellent campaign notably lighting up the mid field in the Mexico game.

performance.

Culture Clash is an examination of lives under pressure, people making epic decisions and individuals running into the unexpected. This journey explores the extraordinary and ordinary stories of home, and other dangerous places! Culture Clash is funny, colourful and alive - a show for all ages.

26 Oct – 3 Nov
All shows 8pm | Sunday
28 Oct 6pm | Tuesday 30
Oct 7pm | No show
Monday
\$25 Adult | \$22
Concession & Groups 6+

To book visit
www.tapac.org.nz or call
09 845 0295
Twitter:
@TAPACakl
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/cultureclashnz

**Western Springs
College Joins BISC –
Business in Service of
the Community.**

To find out more about
this community focused
business networking
group go to
www.bisc.org.nz

School-Community Partnerships

An important area in our planning for C21st learning involves developing greater connectedness between the college and the individuals, groups and organisations which make up our wider community.

The motivation to develop closer school-community links comes from recognition that enabling students to select from an appealing range of authentic learning experiences involves tapping into the different kinds of expertise residing in the community beyond the resources teachers can access in house.

Put simply, learning in a modern secondary school needs to harness all the resources of the community. So it follows that these days teachers are constantly looking to work with others who can provide particular expertise, knowledge or access to learning opportunities in the community.

We believe that much of this expertise resides among the individuals and families who have direct associations with the school, that is, among our alumni and our parent community, past, current and future. We would like you to consider contacting us if you would like to propose an idea for enriching learning at Springs.

Learning in the C21st is more and more about providing students with opportunities to generate and use new knowledge in order to tackle, and propose solutions for real-world problems. Increasingly, educators are asserting that real world learning is about equipping people to do things with knowledge such as acting on their environment.

One excellent example in recent years has occurred under the leadership of the head of the WSC Science department, Rob Forster. Rob, with the encouragement and support of his colleagues in the department, has developed Level 2 and Level 3 Environmental Science courses with a major focus on education for sustainability. These popular, investigative and action-oriented programmes enable students to contribute to the development of community policies and practices in partnership with external organisations like Wai-Care and Auckland Zoo.

The WSC Sustainability Panel, which has successfully led the education-for-sustainability movement at Springs during recent years, is an outstanding example of a school-community partnership for social action. The input of Nikki Harre and her University of Auckland students, Bridget Glasgow from EnviroSchools, board chairperson, Gordon Ikin, and Parent Action Group member, Susan Hirst – all WSC parents – has been enormously significant. Deputy principal, Thea Kilian, colleagues and student leaders have worked with these parents and their organisations to great effect.

The current Ministry for the Environment-resourced Waste Minimisation Project has already achieved a significant reduction in the school's waste to landfill. Similarly, the TravelWise programme through close and effective liaison with Auckland Council and Auckland Transport has brought about major improvements in road safety within a one kilometre radius of the school.

Arguably, this kind of school-community interaction is about widening and deepening what has been happening for a long time to varying degrees in most, if not all, curriculum areas. Education Outside The Classroom in Geography, Science or Physical Education has for many years enabled students to enjoy trips and camps involving learning experiences which rate prominently among the highlights of their secondary education.

In fact, all of WSC's curriculum areas interact with our community in a multiplicity of ways:

- TAPAC is a superb example of a cooperative school-community venture which allows students of Drama and Dance to work alongside professional practitioners on a daily basis.
- Concert performances, movies at the cinema, gallery exhibitions and museum programmes in the city are frequent events for many of our students.
- Visiting performing artists, writers, poets, musicians and other creative practitioners are a regular feature of school life.
- In a range of technology subjects – Design, Food Technology and Soft Materials - students design, prepare and deliver projects for actual clients.

- P.E. classes plan and teach programmes pitched at primary or intermediate student audiences.
- Student film-makers enter film festivals and invite family and friends to view the best of their work at a local cinema.
- Language students employ their French or Japanese at Auckland's restaurants.
- Student-managed Health Education promotions target peers with compelling, thought-provoking messages.
- The Sports Academy programme takes students under our coastal waters to gain advanced scuba diving qualifications.
- Our sports programme with over 60 teams competing in intersecondary competitions in an ever-widening range of sports could not operate without the contribution of coaches and managers drawn from the parent body and the wider community.
- Our Careers programme brings students face-to-face with tertiary institution liaison personnel and Industry Training Organisation representatives.
- Rumaki students engage with mentors in a range of vocational fields.

The WSC Gateway programme under the direction of Kau Tepaki has developed business and industry links which enable over 100 Year 12 and 13 students to experience workplace learning one day per week throughout the year. Contact Kau at tepakik@wsc.school.nz if you would like to join this network.

Western Springs College is keen to provide tasters for students who are contemplating tertiary study and/or training prior to entering a profession or skilled occupation. Alumni who occupy a position in business, industry or the professions and who are well placed to facilitate direct contact with their workplace for aspiring senior students should email Careers head of department, Kay Wallace, at wallacek@wsc.school.nz.

Currently, our teachers are looking for opportunities to develop cross-curricula projects which involve active inquiry into issues, problems or challenges facing society. We would welcome ideas which you are in a position to help make happen.

Finally, the commitment of the WSC Board of Trustees to retaining and developing close community links has been demonstrated in its recent support for community education. Beyond the Government's decision to remove adult education funding from Western Springs College, the Board has backed coordinator Bridget Klubien's private business initiative in establishing Leisuretime Learning. The quality adult and teen courses available through Leisuretime Learning can be accessed from the school website at www.westernsprings.school.nz.

Reference

Supporting future-oriented learning and teaching - a New Zealand perspective, R. Bolstad & J. Gilbert, New Zealand Council for Educational Research, Report to the Ministry of Education, 2012

Ka kite ano au i a koutou,

Ken Havill
Principal

Going for Gold in Waste Reduction

Western Springs College has been on a long sustainability journey to reach the current impressive waste minimisation practices seen in the school today.

It started back in 2008 when the school set up a Sustainability Panel, chaired by Niki Harre, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Auckland University. The panel's aim was to work towards environmental sustainability in all areas of school life. Niki brought in a research team from the university and worked alongside student leaders and committed teachers and other staff to promote better waste management systems. In 2009 the project was highly commended in the Auckland Regional Council Sustainability awards. The following year, Deputy Principal Thea Kilian and student leaders recognised that a major injection of time and funding would be required to take the waste minimisation programme to the next level. The robust work done up to this point enabled Western Springs College to secure a grant of \$55,224 from the Waste Minimisation Fund, which is administered by the Ministry for the

Environment, to implement the next stage.

So, the next stage of the journey began with the ambitious goal of reducing waste to landfill from Western Springs College by a massive 50%.

The big three goals are:

- a reduction in compostable waste going to landfill by 66%
- a reduction in recyclable waste going to landfill by 66%
- and a reduction in the use of non-recyclable packaging such as glad wrap and coffee cups by 50%

Waste Not Consultants won the tender to design, implement and evaluate an effective waste management system for the school. In consultation with key individuals such as Niki Harre and Bridget Glasgow from EnviroSchools and a huge amount of work and input from Thea Kilian, grounds staff and students, the new Waste Minimisations project got up and running in term three this year.

36 new waste stations have been installed with clear, recognisable signage, using national recycling symbols.



Thea Kilian says that student and staff support for the project has been phenomenal, with a raft of on-going activities taking place throughout the school to lift understanding and commitment to waste reduction.



Staff and students doing waste sorting activities

Much time and effort has also gone into the removal of bins from classrooms, resource rooms, the staffroom and offices to achieve zero waste spaces. Brochures have also been produced to ensure any visiting parties to the school understand and follow our processes. Over the next month the composting systems will be finalised to complete the recycling circle.

Although there has been a huge amount of progress on the project in the last couple of months, the real hero of the story is the slow and steady culture change that has occurred in the school over a number of years. This is being driven by deputy principal, Thea Kilian, with the development and continued refinement of the student leaders' panel. Today we have 12 hotly contested positions in the Waste Wise, Health Wise and Travel Wise panel and these students will continue to be central to the on-going environmental story at Springs. Western Springs College is currently one of only a small number of secondary schools to have silver enviroschool status and we have high hopes of moving to a GreenGold status as we move through our school rebuild process.

Western Springs College joins Point Chevalier School, Westmere School and Pasadena Intermediate in BISC

The community organisation BISC (Business in Service of Community), was initially dreamed up and implemented by a group of parents from Point Chevalier School. It has operated for five years in Point Chevalier and for one year in Westmere, and is now extending its boundaries to include the suburb of Western Springs.

BISC is a non-profit organisation of business people who live in Point Chevalier and Westmere, and now also Western Springs, who are interested in reaching out and supporting their local community.



Rick Thevenard of BISC, Ken Havill Principal of Western Springs College and Paul Grondin of BISC celebrate Western Springs College joining BISC

Although recruitment is conducted through the schools, it is important to note that having children is not the basis for joining BISC. Rather, it is the desire to reach the school population and to support them. Paul Grondin from BISC says, "We congratulate Western Springs College on joining BISC.

It has always been our objective to include Western Springs College within BISC, after all, many of our children go through either Point Chevalier School, Westmere School and Pasadena Intermediate and complete their secondary education at Western Springs College. We see it as completing the circle.

BISC has so far generated over \$34,000 worth of donations to the foundation schools and Western Springs College will now be part of this gifting process. A substantial portion of their joining fee of \$325pa is distributed to the schools.

BISC also takes a keen interest in community and social issues and was instrumental in procuring the early introduction of high speed broadband in Pt. Chevalier and the renovation of the Countdown supermarket.

Membership Benefits

Members are invited to attend a monthly networking meeting and business showcase. They are also listed and profiled on the BISC website - www.bisc.org.nz, promoted in the school newsletters by way of the BISC Directory which reaches over 2000+ families in our school communities and are included in the BISC e-newsletter to contacts once a month. BISC also does a yearly mail drop to our community which promotes the members' services.

Anyone interested in joining BISC or needing any more information should contact:
Paul Grondin at paul@tinsoldier.co.nz or mobile 021 721 855,
Rick Thevenard at r.thevenard@barfoot.co.nz or mobile: 0274 481-888 or visit
www.bisc.org.nz

Meola Creek Restoration – Planting Day

What a monumental task we had set ourselves. 1300 native seedlings arrived and we had to plant them in just two hours.

It is all part of our plan to restore the biodiversity of the Meola Stream bank. Our work is part of a massive amount of volunteer work going on along the creek from where it begins next to Mt Albert Grammar to where it empties into the Waitemata Harbour, so we are just a small part of larger master plan.



However, our area did not look that small on this Saturday morning, staring at all those seedlings sitting in their pots and the large flood plain area where they were meant to go. Much to our relief the community of Western Springs College came to support our precious environment. Concerned locals and parents arrived with sleepy-looking children in tow, students and staff of the college all turned up with the necessary gum boots to handle the deep mud. After a quick safety talk from Taryn we were away. In no time at all the top part of the bank was all done and people were looking around for more to do, so we moved down into the flood plain close to the stream. And with time to spare we had done it, transformed a waste land into a beautiful native ecosystem.

Thanks to our friends at Te Ngahere, who did an awesome job of clearing the area, we have managed to completely change an area that a year ago was impossible to walk through, covered completely in overgrown weeds, to an area that is now a pleasure to spend time in. Also, a huge thank-you to all those who gave their valuable time on Saturday morning, a special thank you to Taryn and her team from Wai Care who have been keeping us on track. To the community for donating money for this project, BOC New Zealand, Auckland Council Environmental Initiatives Fund, Auckland Zoo and the Parents Action Group of Western Springs College, a big thank you for helping us to do this work.

If you would like to support us in raising funds for this important project check out www.everydayhero.co.nz/event/the50 You can make a donation or participate in the challenge. If you are interested in finding out about the next working bee please contact Robert Forster on forsterr@wsc.school.nz.

Written by Robert Forster

No longer wish to receive this email: please reply to this email with **unsubscribe** in the subject line.